Arrest of Bhutanese Democratic Leader New Delhi

2507. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Rongthong Kuenley Dorji, the Bhutanese democratic leader who is leading the Movement for establishment of democracy in Bhutan, was arrested in New Delhi some time back;

(b) whether proceedings for his extradition are going on; and

(c) whether he is not entitled to political asylum in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Bhutanese request for the extradition of Shri Rongthong Kuenley is subjudice. The Extradition Magistrate, appointed by the Government of India is looking into the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Extradition Act and the Extradition Agreement between India and Bhutan.

वास्कोडिगामा के भारत पहुंचने की पांच सौवीं वर्षगांठ

2508. डॉ० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत एवं पुर्तगाल की कोई उच्च स्तरीय संयुक्त समिति वास्कोडिगामा के भारत पहुंचने की पांच सौवीं वर्षगांठ का समारोह मनाने की तैयारी कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो समिति ने अभी तक क्या कार्यक्रम तय किए हैं ;

(ग) क्या सितम्बर, 1997 में पुर्तगाल में इस सन्दर्भ में कोई गोष्ठी होने जा रही है, जिसमें भारत के प्रतिनिधि भी भाग लेंगे ; और

(घ) क्या पुर्तगाल के विदेश मंत्री ने इस सन्दर्भ में गोवा की यात्रा की है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) इस संबंध में सरकार को पुर्तगाल में इस प्रकार की किसी गोष्ठी की जानकारी नहीं है जिसमें भारत सरकार के प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया हो ।

(घ) पुर्तगाल के विदेश मंत्री ने इस वर्ष फरवरी में भारत की यात्रा की थी । इस यात्रा के दौरान, उन्होंने पुर्तगाल के साथ हमारे द्विपक्षीय सम्बन्धों के विभिन्न मसलों पर विचार-विमर्श किया और दिल्ली, मुंबई और गोवा की यात्रा की ।

Impact of Pak Nuclear weapons Development on Bilateral Talks

2509. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's developing of nuclear warheads for its medium range missiles with active technical assistance from China; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto and how do Government feel that Pakistan's pursuit in developing nuclear warheads with Chinese assistance, would affect the ongoing talks between India and Pakistan to normalise relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are carefully and continuously monitoring Pakistan's exer-

nally aided nuclear and missile programme. Based on our own threat perceptions, Government are committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard national security.

Government's concerns regarding the Pakistani nuclear and missile programme have been stated publicly and will be reiterated in future talks with Pakistan.

Treaty for stoppage of nuclear tests

2510. SHRI J. CHITTHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 190, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the recent weapons related test conducted by USA demonstrates that Nuclear weapons States continue to rely on nuclear weapons and their programme, to further develop and refine nuclear weapons technology; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to bring about an international treaty providing for stopping of nuclear tests and phased elimination of nuclear weapons; within a time-bound framework?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a press statement on July 5, 1997, Government took note of the "sub-critical" test conducted by the United States on July 2, 1997 and expressed concern that the sub-critical nuclear test has been justified "as an activity permitted under the CTBT". India has been consistently pointing out in both bilateral and international fora that the CTBT in its present form contains loopholes and without being placed in the context of a phased programme for global nuclear disarmament serves only a discriminatory non-proliferation intent rather than the urgent goal of global nuclear disarmament. India believes that a nuclear weapons-free world will enhance our national security as well as global security. India, along with other Non-aligned countries has called for early commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a phased programme for elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

Deployment of Hatf-III missiles near Indian border

2511. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about Pakistan's acquiring nuclear warheads for its medium range missiles, as reported in PIONEER, dated the 10th July, 1997;

(b) whether Pakistan had tested Hatf-III missiles; if so, the firing range thereof;

(c) whether these missiles have been deployed near the Indian border if so, the details of actual deployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is deeply concerned over reports in the Pakistan media that Pakistan has test fired a medium-range missile.

(c) Government are aware of credible reports in this regard. The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. Our concerns regarding Pakistan's acquisition of M-11 missiles have been conveyed to the concerned countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interest.

Security of the investigating team in Dubai

2512. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received information that some Dubai-based